

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Nation

IN BRIEF

FLORIDA

Man Cleared by DNA Evidence Leaves Prison

A man who spent 26 years behind bars as the "Bird Road Rapist" was released from prison after DNA evidence cleared him in two of the attacks and cast doubt on whether he was responsible for any of the crimes.

"Victory," Luis Diaz, 67, said as he walked out of the courthouse a free man. He said he planned to spend time with his family, was not bitter about the time he lost and didn't blame prosecutors. "They did their job," he said.

Circuit Judge Christina Pereyra-Shumner threw out his five rape convictions at the request of both Miami-Dade County's chief prosecutor and

lawyers for the Innocence Project, a nonprofit organization that works to get inmates exonerated via DNA.

FLORIDA

Tropical Storm Harvey Heads for Bermuda

A tropical depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Harvey as it slowly approached Bermuda, forecasters said in Miami.

Harvey, the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, had top sustained winds of about 60 mph.

The National Hurricane Center said there was a small chance that Harvey could become a hurricane — with sustained winds of at least 74 mph — when its center passes near Bermuda today.

COLORADO

Bush Signs New Bill on Massacre Historic Site

President Bush has signed into law a bill furthering the creation of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, more than 140 years after about 700 militiamen killed more than 160 Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, mostly women, children and elderly men, in a surprise attack near what is now Chivington.

Congress later determined that the attack was unprovoked.

The law capped efforts begun by former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), Rep. Marilyn N. Musgrave and Sen. Wayne Allard, both Colorado Republicans, reintroduced legislation this year to preserve the site.

From Times Wire Reports



CYRUS MCCORMICK/The Rocky Mountain News

ATTACK SITE: A monument marks where the Sand Creek massacre occurred near Chivington, Colo. More than 160 Indians, mostly women, children and elderly men, were killed in 1864.